

19 March 1965

Dear Frank:

I have a matter on which I would like your good counsel. Jim McCargar dropped in to see me this week and told me that he has a contract to do a book for the American publishers Holt, Rinehart & Winston, and for the British publishers Secker & Warburg. This is to be a definitive study of the Hungarian Revolution and the book is timed to appear for next year's tenth anniversary of that event.

James will, of course, have access to all the material in the public domain but thinks that there might be some special material on three topics: (1) What was really going on within Russia that led to the decision to re-intervene in Hungary; (2) What were the simultaneous considerations and policy positions within the Satellites (including Yugoslavia); (3) What were the main considerations within the Western European countries, especially France and the United Kingdom, and not excluding the consideration of the Suez question.

I know that many people are unhappy with our friend's pseudonymous book that touched our interests. I am inclined to believe, however, that it might be important to make sure that a good and well-oriented book is written on the anniversary of the Hungarian Revolution. Undoubtedly there will be a number of people who will seize the occasion to get something into print. I suspect that McCargar might do a fairly good book, but I am tempted to believe that we should try to make it as good as possible and take the advantage of working on inside lines to have its general thesis as helpful as possible.

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Since I know that you interest yourself in published material that impinges on our former mutual interests, I wonder if you think I would be butting my head against a stone wall if I suggested that some of our friends help dig out some pertinent material. I also think that if you would not find this idea repugnant, you could help steer it into proper channels because it would undoubtedly have to be directed to the ultimate source through some middleman such as Walter P., the Librarian.

This is one of those things that is going to happen anyway and I suggest that it might be advantageous to operate on inside lines. I would appreciate your reaction to this and will not take any other step in this direction until I hear from you.

With best personal regards to Polly and yourself, and with the hope that I may see you when I take some home leave this summer,

Sincerely yours,